

February 8, 1973

SPEAKER: The bill is advanced. Senator Skarda for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SKARDA: As long as there isn't any objection I'd say I'd like to go back to 249 if there isn't any objection?

SPEAKER: Okay. Are there objections to taking up LB 249 at this time? Hearing none, so ordered.

SENATOR SKARDA: Mr. President I ask that my amendment be withdrawn, I'm in concurrence with Senator Barnett, it serves the same purpose. You got that Vince? I have another amendment I would like to offer. On line 11 instead of the two thousand make it five thousand, we were talking about the minimum and you know it seems to me that we are offering very little when we do this, most likely all the counties all are every going to take is the minimum and this gives it more assurance of really us attempting to do something for the volunteer firemen.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of that motion? Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Will Senator Skarda yield to a question?

SENATOR SKARDA: Certainly.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Are we talking about minimum of five thousand dollars of term insurance.

SENATOR SKARDA: Yes I believe you could call it that.

SENATOR WHITNEY: It's not ordinary life insurance, just term insurance.

SENATOR SKARDA: That's right term insurance.

SPEAKER: Senator Rasmussen. We have before the Skarda amendment to LB 249.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, this I'm going to agree with Senator Skarda on, out in our country these firemen's benefits really are few, and I think they are entitled to it.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion to that amendment, Senator Carstens did you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR CARSTENS: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I don't believe that anything that hit me with more problems and more trouble than this requirement to furnish insurance for firemen, and I finally got the problem calmed down on the two thousand, now if we are going to raise this two to five thousand dollars, that's a lot of cost to some of these fire districts. Now I don't know how it is in other parts of the state, but in my area, these rural fire departments are kind of social clubs, and everybody belongs to them. They already all belong to them because there is two thousand dollars free insurance, what can you loose, so now we add it up to five thousand dollars, we're going to have the whole county in the rural fire department, because this is quite an incentive and quite an added thing, but it adds up a terrific amount of costs, and I think we ought to think a little while about this, I don't care, I haven't got any objections to the firemen, all 100% even a 1000% for firemen, but I don't want to go along with going through this storm again, when the premium costs hit the rural fire department. This is quite a burden, this is a fact, this is quite a burden, they don't have much money, and they are limited in the amount of money in which they can levy, and this is, there are many people right now in the rural fire districts and fire districts and having volunteer fire department who feel that it was